

Thomas Turner to Ebenezer Pettigrew

A&H

Plymo NC June 23 1831

My dear Sir,

In the course my interview yesterday with Mr Bryan, I learned from him that you contemplated making your expected trip with our unfortunate son to the north, by way of the sea in some vessel, this summer:—and I come to tell you, That this will not do: at least, that it is my opinion, if you undertake it, you will heartily repent, before the voyage is ended, that you had not gone by land. I come to tell you also some of the reasons for this opinion.

1st you and your son, will in all probability be sea sick the whole voyage. This sea sickness is the most unpleasant discouraging desponding of diseases. It is besides a very sick disease—; and (remember) it will last the whole voyage.

2^d The sea air is a damp atmosphere. This will be a very disagreeable feeling to you: but your son may not perhaps regard it.

3 In this warm weather, you will scarcely find a vessil, free of Chintses cock roaches, bugs—These added to the dirt & filth of most vessels, will be exceedingly disagreeable, if not injurious. It may be injurious by depriving you of rest and pleasure.

4 There is no shade at sea. You can find there, no protection from the sun. The heat of the sun is more intollerable there, than in your fields—If you go below, you are stewed; if you remain on deck you are burnt up.

5 Either of these evils, when it falls upon a man in health, & who withal is used to it, is bad eno, and he can scarcely stand it. What then are you and your son to do, who are not used to any one of them. Think of the sea sickness; the dampness of your clothes & face & hands & that you cant dry them; the chintses, bugs, dirt, filth; the intolerable heat above and below deck; and that these are to be blended all together, & thrown upon you and our little son for 10 days or a fortnight; and then answer me, if there is any advantage in such a voyage to compensate for this amount of human suffering?—I tell you sir, If you undertake that voyage, you will repent it a 1000 times before it ends—And this repentance will be associated with despondency, such an accumulation of ills, added to the sea sickness, will make you look a head with no spirit, competent to endure the whole, with patience for 10 days.

If however you will go that way, then let me recommend, that you take some medicines with you. Coasting vessels are not apt to have them, and you know not, what you may want before the end of the voyage. Opium, I have read, & believe, affords considerable relief to sea sickness. Take some books with you also: for you will need something besides the conversation <in the con> of sea men, to entertain you, in the course of 10 to 20, or 30 days.